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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Port Information: Novorossisk

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- 1.
2. Alphabetical Designators In connection with information contained herein, specific points of interest are noted on photograph of HO Chart No 4217 by the following alphabetical designators:

- A. Pilot Aboard
- B. Course-Line to Berth
- C. Obstruction to Navigation
- D. Berth
- E. Divers Repairing Pier No 1
- F. Railroad Crew Repairing Tracks on Pier No 4
- G. Soviet Coastal Freighters (12)
- H. Soviet Passenger Vessels (2)
- I. Soviet DD's (3)
- J. Soviet SC's (10)
- K. Military Installation Under Construction
- L. Heavily Bombed Business District
- M. Bathing Area
- N. Cement Plant
- O. Marine Ways
- P. Pilot Dropped

- 3.
4. Weather Weather during vessel's call was clear and warm.

NAVY review(s)
completed.

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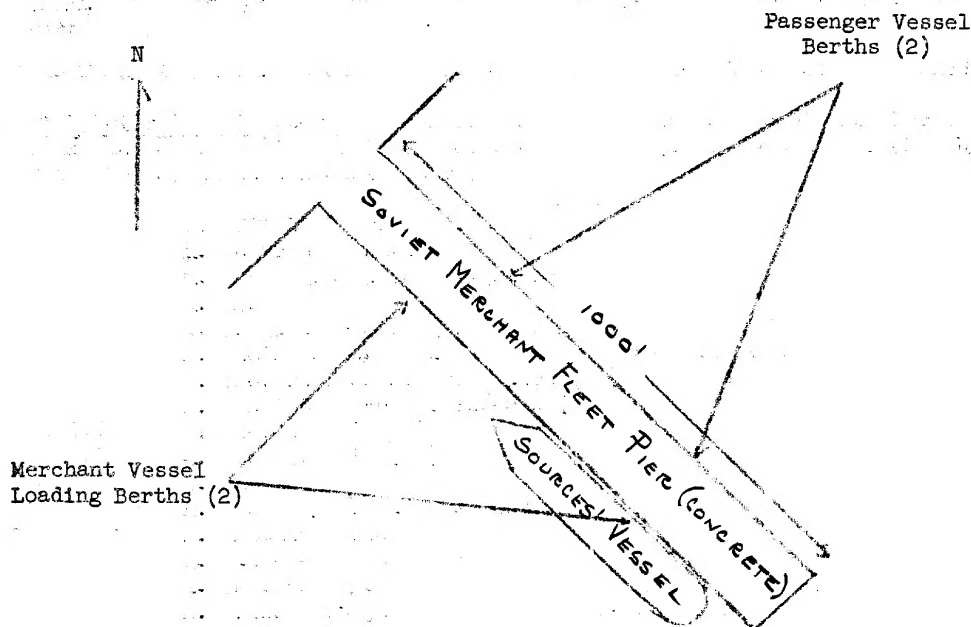
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5. Approach Vessel arrived outside harbor at 171705C Jun 54 and waited for pilot at a position labeled designator A, 2.5 miles off Doob Point. Vessel had received prior instructions to take pilot aboard at this position.
6. Pilotage Pilots are compulsory at all times and are available both day and night. Pilots board vessels 2.5 miles off Doob Point, and sources' vessel was boarded at this point at 171910C Jun 54 by pilot, four armed guards, and three other port officials from a small motor launch that showed no signals. Pilot spoke no English. Radio was sealed and all cameras locked up as vessel proceeded from where pilot boarded to berth.
7. Obstruction to Navigation Pilot conducted vessel to berth along a course labeled designator B. He gave a wide berth to an obstruction to navigation which he did not explain located at designator C.
8. Inspection A boarding party of about 30 persons armed with pistols commenced inspection at berth. Vessel's crew was mustered on mess deck while search lasting one hour was conducted. A vessel's officer accompanied the searchers. A medical examination was conducted prior to issuance of shore passes to crew members, which were available to all. Crew members were required to return to vessel by 0001C hours nightly. Shore passes were printed in two sections: the upper section was retained by gangway sentry when crew member went ashore, and it was returned to him when he returned aboard vessel.
9. Berth Vessel berthed alongside the "Merchant Fleet Pier," a concrete pier of approximately one thousand feet length, labeled designator D. She lifted wheat cargo at one of two berths of 500' length. Depth of water alongside pier was approximately 30'. A drawing of pier is shown below:

SOVIET MERCHANT FLEET PIER - NOVOROSSISK

10. Surveillance Three armed sentries were stationed on the pier during period of vessel's call: one at gangway, one fore and one aft. Gangway watch checked shore passes of crew and checked passes of all Soviets boarding vessels.
11. Stevedores Stevedore gangs were available day and night. Gangs were composed of nine men and three women.

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12. Provisions Only provisions taken aboard were quantities of frozen fish which sources described as "good fish."
13. Harbor Facilities Sources observed that grain elevators were old and in need of repair. Railroad tracks led off piers and along waterfront area, but only a small number of trains were observed in operation. The piers had only a small number of sheds or other buildings constructed on them. Divers were observed at work presumably in repair work on Pier No 1, at designator E. A railroad crew was doing repair work on tracks on Pier No 4 at designator F, which had been demolished during World War II bombings and is presently being rebuilt.
14. Cranes No large cranes were observed in subject port, but sources did see about 10 small motorized portal-type cranes with the name-plate of Yale, which appeared to have been manufactured in the US.
15. Products for Export Sources observed quantities of coal and grain which appeared to be the only commodities being currently exported from subject port.
16. Merchant Shipping Present An Italian "Liberty" type merchant freighter, the name of which was not observed, was entering harbor at the time sources' vessel was departing and which was to berth at the same position as sources' vessel. Approximately 12 small Soviet coastal freighters were observed lifting coal cargoes at the coaling pier labeled designator G. On the opposite side of "Merchant Fleet Pier" from sources' vessel, two small Soviet passenger vessels were berthed. Apparently these vessels sail on short distance voyages, because one vessel departed subject port and returned for a second call during the days of sources' visit.
17. Naval Activity Three old Soviet two-stack destroyers were anchored at designator I, and 10 Soviet subchasers were tied up at Pier No 2 labeled designator J. Sources described destroyers as similar to the "old French two-stackers." At night these vessels entered the harbor and anchored, then departed harbor each morning. A few uniformed army and navy personnel were observed in the harbor area who were probably attached to the naval vessels present in subject port. Construction of a new military installation of an undetermined type was observed in the area labeled designator K.
18. Air Activity No air activity of any type was observed during vessel's call at subject port.
19. Conditions Ashore Crew members who went ashore remained in the general vicinity of the harbor because no public transportation was available into the city. The city was severely damaged by bombings during World War II, particularly the business district labeled designator L. Much of this area has still not been rebuilt. The people in the city were friendly and appeared to be comfortably clothed and fed. Their clothing did not compare favorably with Western European or US standards.
20. Health and Sanitation Garbage was held on board vessel for disposal at sea. Raw sewage was not dumped into harbor. Water in the harbor was described as "clean and clear." Bathers were seen in the water in the vicinity of designator M.
21. Cement Plant A large cement plant was observed at designator N. New construction activity at this point indicated either an expansion of this plant or a building of a new plant for some other purpose.
22. Marine Ways Three slips are located at designator O, where sources observed a Soviet vessel of an undetermined type of three-four thousand gross tons undergoing repairs. Another Soviet vessel of the same size also of undetermined type was under construction and appeared to be near completion.

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23. Departure Vessel departed subject port on 54 and dropped pilot at designator P.

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[On file in CIA Library is photograph of HO Chart No 4217 with appropriate alphabetical designators.]

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